

Why are our children, for the first time in my history as a child student and now as a parent are they starting school before the Labor Day Holiday?

Yes. You are correct. Starting school prior to Labor Day is not a common practice.

The 2015-2016 school year was certainly a challenging year to develop a school year calendar. As you may know, state law requires that school districts hold 180 days of school. West Babylon's calendar contractually must have 182 school days. During the calendar development phase, we have to take into account k-8 state assessment testing dates, high school regents exam schedules and national holidays. The holidays in particular made the development of this calendar quite challenging. If we started the school year after Labor Day, we would have needed to reduce the number of school days off during the month of December or completely eliminate the February week off. Various committees are part of the calendar development process. Starting prior to Labor Day was the best option for the 2015-2016 school year.

We adopted and posted the 2015-2016 school year calendar about five months ago. It is my understanding that close to 100 of the 124 long island school districts are also starting school prior to Labor Day this year.